

EASTEX TELEPHONE CO-OP., INC.

"A PHONE FOR EVERY FARM"

June 30, 2014

Chairman Thomas Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Jonathan Chambers
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW 20024
Washington, DC

Re: Letter dated March 7, 2014 from Ark-Tex
Council of Governments (ATCOG), and the
East Texas Council of Governments
(ETCOG) Regarding Expression of Interest
– Rural Broadband Experiments, Connect
America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90,

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners, and Mr. Chambers:

Eastex Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Eastex") recently became aware of the above referenced letter to the FCC from ATCOG and ETCOG expressing interest in obtaining funding for the expansion of the broadband network into the ATCOG and ETCOG regions. The letter indicates on page 8 that Eastex has a "strong interest" in the broadband effort of ATCOG and ETCOG. Eastex needs to clarify the record in light of that statement.

Eastex applauds the FCC's efforts to bring broadband services to more rural Americans. However, Eastex does not have "strong interest" in or in any manner endorse the proposal by ATCOG and ETCOG. As one of the largest and oldest telephone cooperatives in the State of Texas providing high quality broadband services in its service areas, Eastex recognizes the complexities and costs of delivering broadband services to rural areas. Eastex has significant questions and concerns as to the capability and plans described in the March 7th letter and, therefore, believes it must clarify the record that Eastex does not have any interest in, endorse or support ATCOG's and ETCOG's proposal.

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It should also be pointed out that certain aspects of the March 7th letter paint a bleak picture of service availability that in Eastex's experience is not correct. The letter at page 6 provides:

The ATCOG/ETCOG region includes 1,054 anchor institutions consisting of K-12 schools, junior colleges, universities, hospitals, clinics, libraries, public safety agencies, workforce development, cities, counties, chambers of commerce and economic development groups. Unfortunately, the anchor institutions in the ATCOG/ETCOG region are limited to untenable services, such as latent and limited satellite and dial-up Internet access.

Eastex serves the various anchor institutions in its service area making available high speed broadband access at affordable rates and with excellent reliability. While there are many examples Eastex might provide, a few notable examples are:

Educational Service Center – Region VII – 20 Mgps
Waskom ISD – 20 Mgps to all campus buildings
Elysian Fields ISD – 20 Mgps to all campus buildings
Mt. Enterprise ISD – 20 Mgps
Laneville ISD – 50 Mgps
Sierra Frac Sand, LLC – 20 Mgps
Red Diamond Oilfield Services – 5 Mgps

In addition, Eastex provides many Anchor Institutes with Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) broadband services:

Rusk County Precinct 4 JP	US Post Office Maydelle Texas
Rusk County Barn Precinct 4	Texas Railroad
Goodsprings Water Supply	Educational Radio Foundation
US Post Office Laneville Texas	Eastex Side Volunteer Fire Department
Mt. Enterprise Water Supply Corp.	IESI East Texas Landfill
Rusk County Precinct 3 JP/Auditor	City of Waskom
City of Mt. Enterprise	Harrison County Precinct 1 JP
Mt. Enterprise Volunteer Fire Department	US Post Office Jonesville TX
Bluebonnet Natural Gas LLC	Harrison County Constable
Mt Enterprise Library	Waskom Family Health Center
Mt. Enterprise Community Health Clinic	Community Four Volunteer Fire Department
Healing Springs Ranch & Rescue	US Post Office Deberry Texas
Maydelle Water Supply	

Eastex doubts there is any school, hospital, governmental agency or other such anchor institution in Eastex's service area being forced to subsist on "latent or limited satellite and dial-up Internet access," Eastex is committed to serving any anchor institution in its service area with

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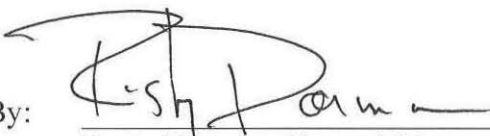
at least 500 Mgps service and doing so at a reasonable rates and charges affordable to the institution. If there is any anchor institution in Eastex's service area subsisting on "untenable services," Eastex would like to know about it and can expeditiously remedy that situation.

Eastex has enjoyed a good working relationship with ATCOG and ETCOG in the past and will continue to assist these fine institutions and their members as well as the anchor institution and communities in Eastex's service areas. While we regret having to correct certain aspects of the March 7th letter, we believe this clarification to be necessary in light of the inferences made as to Eastex and the availability of high speed broadband services in the applicable service areas.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Kind Regards,

EASTEX TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

By: 
Rusty Dorman, General Manager